



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement Yugoslavia Becomes Serbia and Montenegro

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Douglas A. Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
February 6, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States too welcomes the adoption of the Constitutional Charter and the Implementation Law by the Yugoslav Parliament, and we extend our congratulations to the new State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. The adoption of the Charter marks an important step forward in peacefully developing a new relationship between the two republics, and it signals the readiness of both to forge a working union. We hope that this momentum carries over to the challenging task of implementation.

Mr. Chairman, on a related issue, we note the upcoming and repeated presidential elections in Montenegro on the 9th of February. We urge all voters in Montenegro to make their voices heard by going to the polls this Sunday. We recall that the first election attempt on the 22nd of December in 2002, failed because voter turnout did not meet the required fifty percent threshold. While it is too late to change the requirement for this election, we urge the Montenegrin Parliament to abolish or amend the voter turnout threshold for future elections and we support ODIHR's recommendations in this regard.

Thank you.